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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PINS, PREL, IN, LE

SUBJECT: IRANIAN LINKAGE TO TERRORISM IN
LEBANON

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE USG HAS FRESH AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT RADICAL ELEMENTS HIGHLY PLACED WITHIN RPT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT - OF IRAN ARE GIVING OPERATIONAL POLICY ADVICE TO - - - TERRORISTS IN LEBANON, SPECIFICALLY TERRORISTS OPERATING UNDER THE NAME "ISLAMIC JIHAD" OR HIZBALLAH. WE ALSO TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY THE JANUARY 14 THREAT BY CALLERS CLAIMING- TO REPRESENT ISLAMIC JIHAD THAT IT WILL TRY FIVE U.S. CITIZENS. ACTION AMBASSADORS SHOULD TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH HOST FOREIGN MINISTERS OR VERY SENIOR FOREIGN - MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

3 WE WANT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO MAKE THE DRIVE GAINST IRAN'S SPONSORSHIP OF TERRORISM A SIGNIFICANTPART OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENDAS WITH THAT COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DEMARCHE TO IRAN. WE WANT THEM --- SPECIFICALLY TO PRESS IRAN FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FIVE AMERICAN HOSTAGES CLAIMED TO BE IN ITS HANDS BY THE ISLAMIC JIHAD, THAT IS TERRORISTS IN LEBANON WHO RECEIVE DIRECTION FROM THE EXTREMIST FACTION IN THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. SHOULD STATE-SUPPORTED TERRORISM CONTINUE UNCHECKED, AND SHOULD HARM COME TO THE FIVE AMERICANS, THERE WILL BE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

4. WE ANTICIPATE MIXED REACTIONS, AT BEST, TO THIS

DEMARCHE ON THE PART OF HOST GOVERNMENTS. NOR DO WE EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE IRANIANS. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE FORCE OF PRESSURE

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FROM KEY MEMBERS, IN IRAN'S EYES, OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD AT LEAST PREVENT ANY IRREVOCABLE ACTION BY THE TERRORISTS, AND COULD IN TIME MOVE THE IRANIANS TO ACT POSITIVELY. PLEASE DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

--WE RECENTLY OBTAINED FURTHER, FIRM EVIDENCE THAT ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ARE DIRECTLY GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES OF LEBANON-BASED TERRORISTS, INCLUDING TERRORISTS OPERATING UNDER THE NAME OF ISLAMIC JIHAD.

-- IT IS REPORTED ON JANUARY 14 BY REUTERS THAT A TELEPHONE CALLER CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE ISLAMIC JIHAD HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS HOLDING FIVE AMERICAN HOSTAGES, AND THAT IT WOULD TRY THEM AS SPIES AND GIVE THEM "THE PUNISHMENT THAT THEY DESERVE."

--FOR SOME TIME IT HAS BEEN KNOWN THAT THERE ARE CLOSE AND CONTINUING TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND THE RADICAL SHIA TERRORISTS CALLING THEMSELVES ISLAMIC JIHAD OR HIZBALLAH. IT IS THESE TERRORISTS WHO HOLD AMERICAN AND SAUDI HOSTAGES, WHO BOMBED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT LAST SEPTEMBER 20, AND WHO CLAIM TO HAVE KILLED TWO FRENCH OBSERVERS. THESE GOI TIES TO THE TERRORISTS RUN BOTH THROUGH THE IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS, WHICH SHARE BASES AND OTHER FACILITIES WITH THE HIZBALLAH, AND THROUGH CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT.

--THE KEY POINT OF THE NEWLY ACQUIRED EVIDENCE IS ITS CONFIRMATION THAT THE IRANIANS-IN TEHRAN ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE TERRORISTS HOLDING THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. MOREOVER, THE IRANIANS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE

ACTION OF THE KIDNAPPERS. IRANIAN CLAIMS THAT THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE KIDNAPPINGS ARE CLEARLY FALSE.

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--IN ADDITION TO MAKING AN IMMEDIATE DEMARCHE ON IRAN, THE USG URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF (AS APPROPRIATE) IN ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO MAKE CLEAR, IN UNMISTAKABLE TERMS, TO THE GOI THE NEED IN GENERAL TO DISAVOW ABDUCTION AND OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM, AND THE NEED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE EARLY AND SAFE RELEASE OF THOSE KIDNAPPED IN LEBANON WHO ARE THE HOSTAGES OF TERRORISTS. IF STATE-SUPPORTED TERRORISM PERSISTS, AND IF HARM COMES TO THE KIDNAP VICTIMS, THERE WILL BE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

--WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AN INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHE TO THE IRANIANS MAY NOT PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULT, THE USG FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE BY A CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. WE HOPE THAT THOSE MAJOR FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAVE RELATIONS WITH IRAN WHICH ARE VALUED AND NEEDED BY TEHRAN WILL ACTIVELY MANAGE THOSE RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF OUR MUTUAL GOAL TO DISSUADE IRAN FROM TERRORISM.

--WE COUNT ON THE POSITIVE SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE AND REQUEST THAT YOU URGENTLY SEEK IRANIAN COOPERATION IN ASSURING THE SAFETY AND PROMPT RETURN OF THOSE NOW BEING HELD IN LEBANON. RECOVERING THE U.S. HOSTAGES WHO ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF ISLAMIC JIHAD TERRORISTS IS A PRIMARY CURRENT GOAL OF THE USG. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT QUIET BUT TIMELY AND WELL-FOCUSED INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE CAN HELP LOOSEN THE GRIP ON POWER OF THE TERRORISTS WITHIN THE GOI WHO ARE GROUPED AROUND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH-AL-ISLAM.

MORE MODERATE FACTIONS IN TEHRAN WILL BE ASSISTED IN OVERCOMING THE TERRORIST CLIQUE, AND ENDING GOI SPONSORSHIP OF THE HIZBALLAH IF AN INSISTENT FOREIGN DEMAND FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT IS MADE PALPABLE TO THE GOI.

5. FOR ANKARA: WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THIS DEMARCHE COULD



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BE CARRIED OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS THAT GIVEN IN
DEPARTMENT'S SEPTEL TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER HALEFOGLU.

6. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

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